- **Distance Learning Advisory Committee Meeting, March 7, 2001**

The meeting was devoted to learning about future technologies available for distance delivery. Aldona Valicenti, chief information officer, Governor's Office of Technology, presented information about networking technologies and the future of statewide networking. Virginia Fox, chief executive officer, Kentucky Educational Television, discussed the coming digital television delivery of both video and Web content. Representatives of Databeam Inc. demonstrated Internet-based software that allows users to interact in courses and meetings using both video and audio as well as document sharing.

- **Education Professional Standards Board**

The Kentucky Virtual University and the Education Professional Standards Board have agreed to provide a Web site for training and assessment of educators. Tentatively called *ProEdWeb*, it will accept online registration, including payment of fees. *ProEdWeb* initially will contain two applications: one directed at teachers who are new to Kentucky classrooms and one to provide online assessments and surveys. The applications will allow users to test out of certain modules and allow them to take part in task groups or discussion sessions at a distance. In addition, it will include specific EPSB tests such as the "Kentucky Specialty Test for Administrators" and the "Interdisciplinary Early Childhood Examination." The Web site will provide for reasonable security and variability of test items as well as online results. As with all KYVU customers, the users of these applications will have full access to the Kentucky Virtual Library's electronic databases, the KYVU Write Place, and 24/7 Tutorial Services.

- **The KYVU Write Place (online writing center)**

The University of Kentucky and the KYVU have agreed to develop an online writing center. Beginning in June, the Write Place will provide editing as well as writing advice, and courses ranging from semester-long classes to short lessons. The Write Place will be staffed by directors and tutors from writing centers at Kentucky postsecondary institutions. The Write Place received money from the KYVU revolving loan fund to develop its offerings.

- **The Kentucky National Guard and KYVU**

At an April 26 news conference, the Kentucky Virtual University and the Kentucky National Guard announced they will provide work stations, Internet access, and educational opportunities to residents in three pilot communities: Tompkinsville in Monroe County, Jackson in Breathitt County, and Marion in Crittenden County.

Workstations will be installed at three armory sites selected for their regions' lack of Internet access and distance from a university network. KYVU provided the funding for six workstations, including peripheral equipment, for a total of $23,900.

- **Kentucky Virtual Library Receives SOLINET Award**

  The Kentucky Virtual Library has been selected by the Southeastern Library Network for the "Multi-type Library Cooperation Award" for SOLINET's 2001 outstanding library programs. The selection is based on "initiatives and programs that foster multi-type cooperation among libraries; that foster cooperation among libraries and the community or industry; or that promote the value of libraries."

- **KYVL Kentucky Statistical Abstract Site**

  The KYVL Web site for the Kentucky Statistical Abstract will open May 18. This one-stop site provides links to Web-based Kentucky statistics from local, state, federal and non-governmental sources.

- **OpenMind**

  The Kentucky Virtual University has become a partner in the OpenText Project with OpenMind Publishing Group (www.ompg.com), which invites educators to share online textbooks, research, and interactive learning projects. If content is not offered for free, its creator can use the content marketplace where materials are protected under intellectual property laws and are available for a small fee. Educators can also share their thoughts on content contributions, research, and teaching tips.

  Instructors can use this content to personalize CourseBooks that match a syllabus. Instructors can ask students to purchase the final materials from OpenMind in the medium of choice, be it online, CD-ROM, or print. The price is often considerably less than traditional textbooks.

- **Media Coverage**

  The Kentucky Virtual University continues to generate coverage for both the KYVU and the KYVL and participating institutions. During January and February, nearly 75 state newspapers ran KYVU news releases or made mention of the KYVU and KYVL or their institutions in related articles – nearly 1,300 column inches.

  The KYVU made headlines elsewhere. These included Kentucky state government's "Commonwealth Communique" newsletter, a TV news segment on Lexington's Channel 18, and an electronic newsletter, "Distance Education Daily News." KYVU CEO Mary Beth Susman participated in Monterrey Bay's Ready 2 Net "Roundtable Discussion on the Future of Distance Education," which drew a global audience. More recently, Harcourt e-learning's first issue of "E-Learning Solutions" featured the KYVU.